

	MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM	ISSUED	REVISED	CHAPTER	SECTION
	AT-RISK AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS POLICY & PROCEDURE MANUAL	7/1/03	2/12	2	2.2
CHAPTER Chapter 2. Eligibility Requirements		SUBJECT For-Profit Organizations			

Program Eligibility

At-risk after school programs operated by for-profit organizations must:

- be organized primarily to provide care after school hours or on weekends, and holidays or school vacations during the regular school year;
- have organized, regularly scheduled activities in a structured and supervised environment;
- include education or enrichment activities;
- be licensed or license exempt and meet annual State or local health and safety standards;
- be "area eligible" which means a geographical attendance area served by a public school (an elementary, middle, or high school) where at least 50 percent of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP);
- is eligible to receive reimbursement as a proprietary Title XX child care center through the traditional child care component of the CACFP;
- serve nutritionally balanced meals and snacks that meet USDA's nutrition standards;
- claim reimbursement only for eligible meals or a maximum of one snack and one supper per participant per day;
- be served to school age children who are age 18 or under at the start of the school year or meet the definition of Persons with disabilities in 226.21; and
- not charge children for the snack and/or supper meal that is reimbursed under the CACFP be claimed at the free reimbursement rate.

At-risk after school meals and snacks may be reimbursed if they are served on weekends or holidays, including vacation periods (spring break, for example) during the regular school year only. At-risk programs cannot receive reimbursement during the summer vacation months. In areas where schools operate on a year-round basis (i.e., the regularly scheduled school year is year-round), at-risk after school program programs set up to serve children attending the year-round-schools may receive reimbursement for meals and snack through the CACFP all year [7 CFR 226.17a(a)].

Organized athletic programs engaged in interscholastic or community level competitive sports only (i.e. youth sports leagues such as "Babe Ruth," swim teams, soccer and football leagues) **may not** be approved to operate an at-risk after school program. However, the after school program which includes supervised athletic activities may participate provided that they are "open to all" and do not limit membership for reasons other than space, security, or licensing requirements.

A for-profit child care center, may receive reimbursement for at-risk after school meals and snacks if it meets the eligibility requirements and is eligible to participate in CACFP through its traditional child care center. This means that at least 25 percent of the children served by the center through its traditional child care component:

- Are eligible for free or reduced price meals based on their family income; or
- Receive benefits under title XX of the Social Security Act and the center receives compensation under title XX.

This 25 percent threshold is based on the center's enrollment or the licensed capacity, whichever is less. It is calculated during the calendar month preceding application for Program participation. In addition, in order to claim reimbursement in any calendar month, the center must meet the 25 percent threshold in that month.

In determining a for-profit center's eligibility for at-risk afterschool meals program reimbursement, only the enrollment/licensed capacity of the traditional child care component of the center may be considered in calculating whether the center meets the 25 percent criterion. The calculation to determine this eligibility cannot include the at-risk after school children.

EXAMPLE: A for-profit child care center located in a low-income area has 32 pre-school children enrolled for care, and also operates an afterschool program for school-age children. The center would be able to claim reimbursement through CACFP for meals served under the traditional child care component and for afterschool snacks, in any month in which at least 8 of the 32 pre-school children (25%) are eligible for free or reduced price meals or are title XX recipients.

Traditional Child Care Centers

While the at-risk component of CACFP is primarily geared towards non-traditional child care centers such as drop in afterschool programs, traditional child care centers already participating in CACFP also may participate. In this situation, children would attend the center after their school day or on weekends, holidays, or school vacation. Children who do not attend school would continue to participate in the traditional CACFP meal service provided by the center, even during the "afterschool" hours.

Centers operating both the traditional and at-risk components of the CACFP may only claim a total of two meals and one snack or one meal and two snacks, per child per day, including the afterschool snack [7 CFR § 226.17a(k)].

Participant Eligibility

At-risk afterschool programs may claim reimbursement only for meals and snacks served to children who participate in an approved after school program and who are age 18 or under at the start of the school year. Reimbursement also may be claimed for participants who turn age 19 during the school year [7 CFR §226.17a (c)]. There is no age limit for persons with disabilities [7 CFR §226.2 Definitions]. Federal law has no minimum age for at-risk program participants. Meals and snacks served to children who are enrolled in preschool, Head Start, Even Start, etc. and who are participating in an eligible after school program are eligible for reimbursement.

EXAMPLE: Serving lunch to children after half-day kindergarten or a half-day Head Start Program is allowable through the at-risk afterschool meals component of CACFP because their school day has ended. However, before approving an institution to operate such a program, MDHSS-BCFNA must be ensured that the same children who are receiving lunch in the at-risk after school program are not being served lunch in school as well.

References:

USDA-CACFP 564

7 CFR 226.17a

At-Risk Afterschool Meals A Child and Adult Care Food Program Handbook, USDA/FNS, June 2011